

PATENT APPLICATION  
Application No. 10/731,066  
Paper Dated: January 23, 2006  
Attorney Docket No. 128346.30101

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the claims have been restricted under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between the following allegedly distinct inventions namely: (a) Group I: claims 1-13, 19 and 20 drawn to a device for cutting and (b) Group II: claims 14-18 drawn to a method of cutting. Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement for the following reasons and request reconsideration.

Applicants believe that due to the relationship between the inventions a complete search with respect to the Group I claims should be co-extensive with a search with respect to the Group II claims and would not pose any undue burden on the Examiner to search both inventions in the single application. Furthermore, the method for cutting a block defined in the nonelected claims requires the use of a cutting device according to the elected claims. Therefore Applicants respectfully request the restriction be withdrawn and all of claims 1-20 be examined. However, should the Examiner maintain the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group I, claims 1-13, 19 and 20.

By this election, Applicants do not admit, nor do Applicants waive the right to argue against at a later date, the Examiner's statement that the Groups of inventions are patentably distinct. Applicants expressly reserve the right to present the claims of Group II, or other claims in one or more divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part applications at a later date.

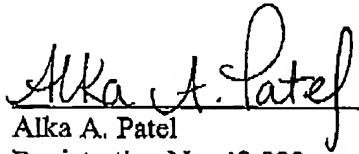
No fee is believed to be due for this submission. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this submission, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0436.

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In view of the above remarks, withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this information, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at (412) 454-5000.

Respectfully submitted,

PEPPER HAMILTON LLP

  
Alka A. Patel  
Registration No. 49,092

Pepper Hamilton LLP  
One Mellon Center, 50<sup>th</sup> Floor  
500 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Telephone: 412.454.5000  
Facsimile: 412.281.0717  
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